

2023-2024 ANNUAL REPORT



***“Advancing Excellence
through Education”***



Table of Contents	1
About Diné College / Vision, Mission, & Educational Philosophy	2
Letter from the President	3
Message from the Board	4
By The Numbers	5-6
Fundraising	7
Financial Highlights	8-9
Financial Aid	10
2023–2024 Milestones	11-20
Academics	21-28
Capital Projects	29-30

Thank you to all the departments and programs that provided information and edits.



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 Christopher Davis, Student Intern/Videographer
 Shawn Tsosie, Student Intern



*Sa'ah Naaghái
Bik'eh Hózhóón*



Established in 1968, Diné College proudly holds the distinction of being the first tribal college in the United States. As a member of the Higher Learning Commission, Diné College is dedicated to delivering exceptional educational opportunities within the Navajo Nation, where it predominantly serves Navajo students (92%).

The college provides a comprehensive range of educational programs, including General Education courses, certificates, associate degrees, bachelor's degrees, and a master's degree. In the fiscal year 2023-2024, Diné College operated with an annual budget of \$25,516,063.00 and employed a dedicated team of 298 professionals. Diné College's main campus is situated in Tsaile, Arizona, and is equipped with student dormitories and a cafeteria to support a vibrant campus life.

The institution extends its reach through additional campuses in Window Rock and Tuba City, Arizona, which cater to residents of the state, while the Shiprock and Crownpoint sites serve students in New Mexico. Additionally, Diné College maintains two microsites in Newcomb, NM, and Aneth, Utah. The college engages in athletic competitions, with programs in rodeo, archery, and cross-country, fostering both athletic and academic excellence. Governance of Diné College is overseen by an eight-member Board of Regents, ensuring strategic direction and oversight.

As we reflect on another year of growth and achievement, Diné College remains committed to its mission of empowering Navajo students and supporting the educational and cultural advancement of the community.

Mission Statement

Diné bina'nitin t'áá íyisíí á siláago binahjí', olta'í na'nitin náasjí' yee ínááhwiidool'álgíí yéego bidziilgo ádiilníł, áko Diné nilínígíí t'áá altso yá'át'éehgo bee bíł nahaz'áa dooleef niidzin.

Rooted in Diné language and culture, our mission is to advance quality post-secondary student learning and development to ensure the well-being of the Diné People.

Vision

Nihi'ólta'gi, Diné Bidziilgo ólta'gi na'nitin al'aa ádaat'éii ólta'í bee nanitinígíí dóo t'áá ha'át'íí shíí bee biká'aná'álo wo'ígíí bidziilgo dóo bohónéedzaago ádiilníł niidzin. Díí binahjí' Diné bi'ólta'gi óhoo'aah ts'ídá bohónéedzaanii bee bíł haz'álgíí dooleef.

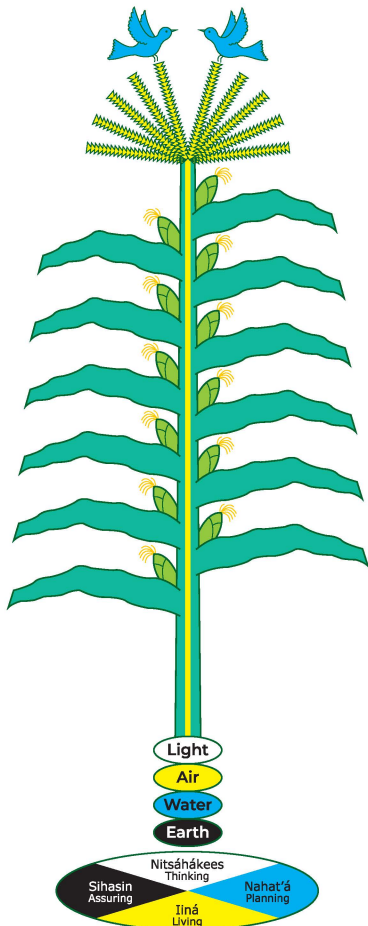
Our vision is to improve continuously our programs and services to make Diné College the exemplary higher education institution for the Diné People.

Principles

Our educational principles are based on Sa'ah Naaghái Bik'eh Hózhóón, the Diné traditional living system, which places human life in harmony with the natural world and universe. The system provides for protection from the imperfections in life and for the development of well-being.



Charles "Monty" Roessel, Ed.D.
Diné College President



Diné College remains dedicated to its mission of community service and academic excellence. The college actively enhances its recruitment, enrollment, retention, and outreach strategies to ensure accessibility and responsiveness to student and community needs. This strategic vision aims to empower the Navajo Nation to thrive amid societal changes by aligning educational offerings with priorities such as healthcare, public safety, and economic development.

In the past year, Diné College proudly launched the Navajo Bachelor of Law program, a groundbreaking initiative addressing the critical shortage of legal services within the Navajo Nation. This program uniquely integrates traditional Navajo laws with contemporary legal education, equipping graduates to serve effectively in diverse legal roles.

By nurturing a new generation of legal professionals rooted in their cultural heritage and ready to tackle modern legal challenges, the program exemplifies Diné College's unwavering commitment to student success.

In alignment with its mission, Diné College received a total of \$1,800,003 in direct financial support from the American Indian College Fund over the past year. This includes significant contributions such as \$1,122,500 in scholarships, with allocations for TCU Scholarships, First Time College Going Scholarships, Full-Circle Scholarships, and Summer Scholarships.

Additional support included \$6,503 for NEH Endowed Cultural Preservation, \$37,500 for Native Arts & Performing Arts Enrichment, and \$500,000 for Student Enrollment Management. Career Exploration, Empowering Relatives Emergency Funds, and other institutional supports further highlight the fund's commitment to educational advancement and cultural preservation.

“As Diné College sets ambitious goals, it remains focused on transforming sectors crucial to the Navajo Nation's future. The college's robust and forward-thinking approach aims to bring lasting change, meeting the needs of faculty, staff, students, and the broader community. Together, they strive to build a brighter future for the Navajo Nation.”



Theresa Hatathlie

Diné College Board of Regents
Chairperson
Appointed Member

Yá'át'ééh,

As Chairperson of the Board of Regents, I am pleased to present our annual report highlighting Diné College's achievements and initiatives over the past year. Our academic programs have seen significant growth, maintaining a high standard of education that addresses the needs of our students and community. By integrating Navajo cultural values into our curriculum, we ensure that our heritage is preserved while equipping our students for future success.

We have made substantial improvements to campus infrastructure, including recent renovations and new facilities. These developments enhance our physical environment and support a productive space for learning and personal growth.

Looking ahead, the Board is dedicated to steering Diné College toward continued progress. We are committed to strategic initiatives that will expand academic offerings, promote sustainability, and strengthen student services. Our goal is to uphold Diné College as a beacon of knowledge, culture, and community for future generations.

These accomplishments result from the dedication and hard work of our faculty, staff, students, and supporters. I extend my deepest gratitude to each member of the Diné College family for your unwavering commitment and contributions. Together, we are building an enduring legacy of excellence that honors our past, enhances our present, and brightens our future.

Ahxéhéé for your continued support.
Regent Theresa Hatathlie

BOARD OF REGENTS



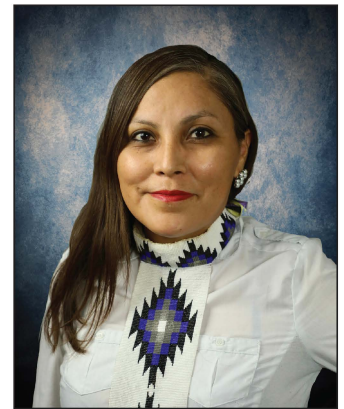
Greg Bigman
Vice-Chair,
Appointed Member



Jalen Smallcanyon
Secretary/Treasurer
ASCD Student Representative

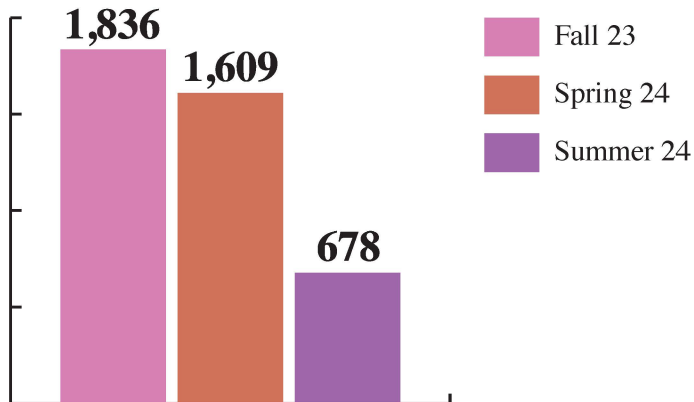


Anderson Hoskie
Appointed
Member



Amberia Tolino
Staff Association President
Designated Member

ENROLLMENT



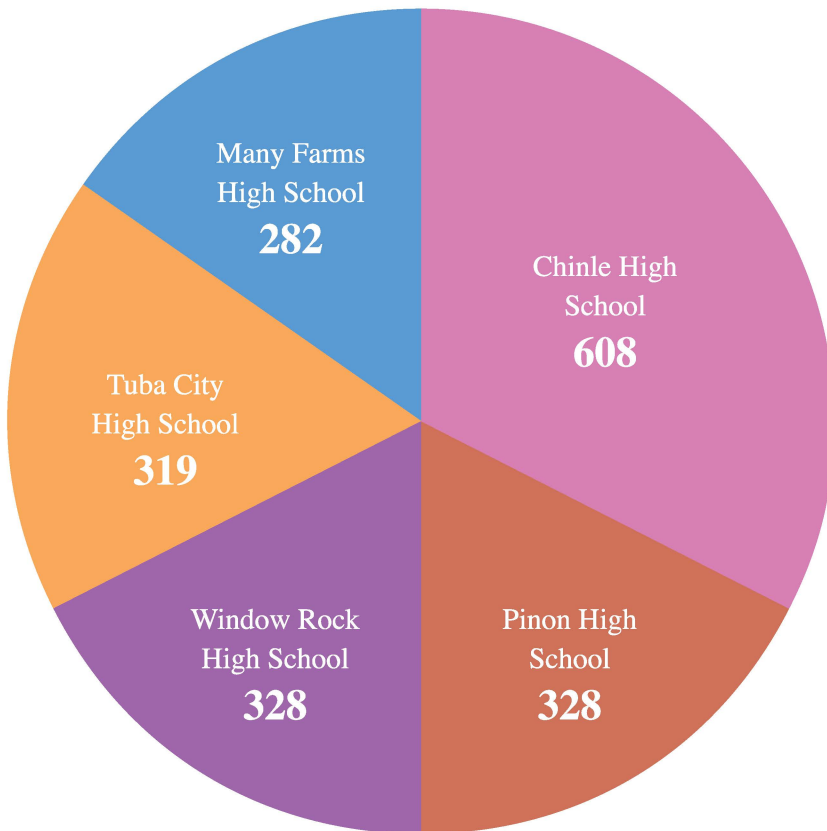
Single Students (AY23-24)

73%

Largest Age Group (AY23-24)

25-34 (1,075 Students)

Diné College has

98% Native American students
for the academic year 2023-2024TOP 5 FEEDER
SCHOOLS (AY23-24)In the academic year 2023-2024,
15% of our students are from
Chinle High School

TOP ENROLLMENT BY AGENCY (AY23-24)



GATEWAY SUCCESS RATE
(AY23-24)

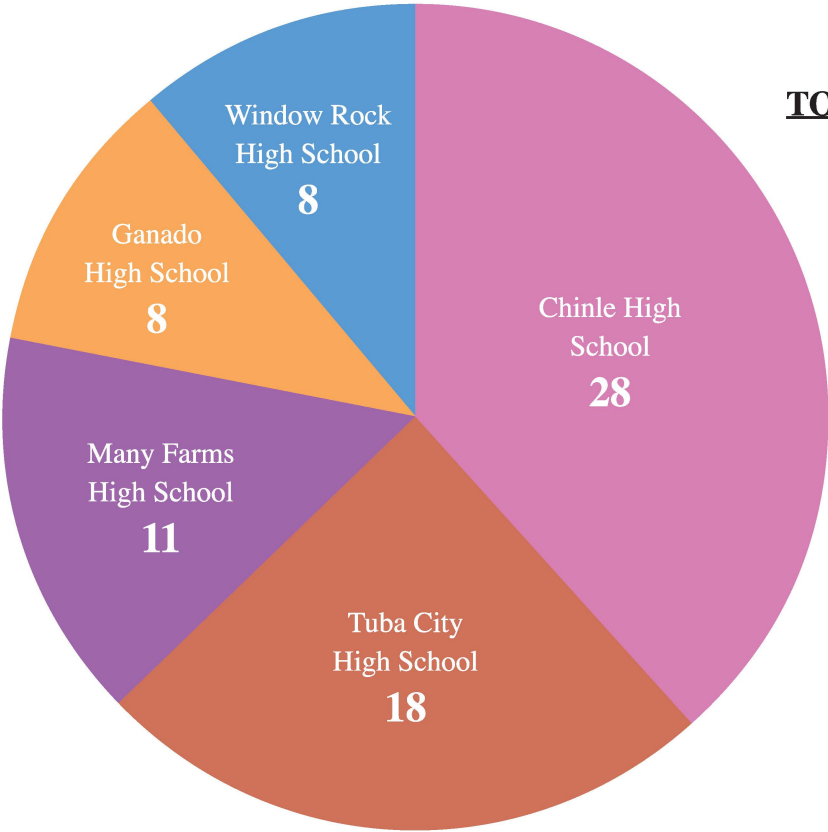
MATH
110, 114 74%

ENGLISH
101 63%

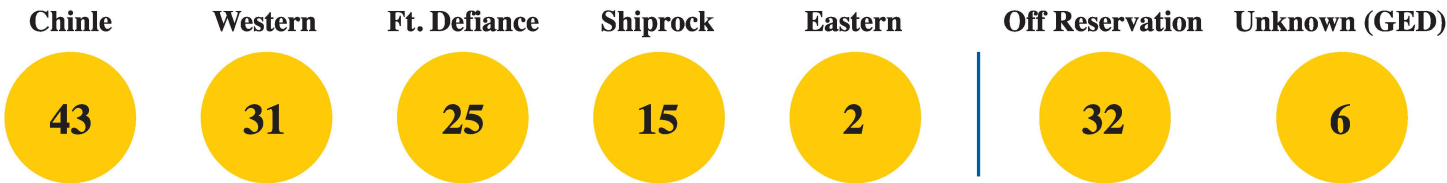
GRADUATES
(FALL & SPRING)

- LARGEST AGE GROUP 25-34 58
- DEGREE CONFERRED 118
- BACHELOR’S DEGREE CONFERRED 44
- TOP PROGRAM (BACHELOR) Bachelor Of Science In Public Health 16
- ASSOCIATE’S DEGREE CONFERRED 102
- TOP PROGRAM (ASSOCIATE) Associate Of Arts In Business Administration 20
- Associate Of Science In Health Occupation 20
- CERTIFICATE AWARDED 18
- TOP PROGRAM (CERTIFICATE) Medical Assistant 7
- Public Health 7
- DEGREE OVER 4 YEARS 639

TOP 5 FEEDER
SCHOOL-GRADUATES
FALL & SPRING



TOP AGENCY - GRADUATES (FALL & SPRING)



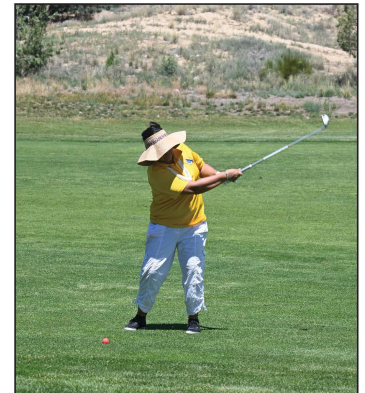
FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024

In fiscal year 2023-2024, Diné College made significant strides in fundraising, with notable events contributing to our financial goals. On June 28, we hosted the "Golfers for Scholars" Fishing Tournament at the Pinon Hills Golf Course in Farmington, New Mexico. This event raised \$45,190.23, providing valuable support for our scholarship programs.

Additionally, the School of Arts and Humanities organized its 2nd Annual Native American Art Market. This vibrant event not only celebrated indigenous artistry but also successfully generated funds earmarked for student scholarships. The market highlighted the rich cultural heritage of our students and fostered community engagement while raising crucial financial support.

These initiatives were essential in advancing our mission and supporting the educational pursuits of our students. The funds raised through these events will contribute to enhanced academic resources and opportunities, ensuring that Diné College continues to provide quality education and promote cultural preservation. Moving forward, we remain committed to expanding our fundraising efforts and building on this year's successes.

GOLF TOURNAMENT



*Amount of
FUNDS RAISED*

\$45,190.23

*Number of
DONORS*

13

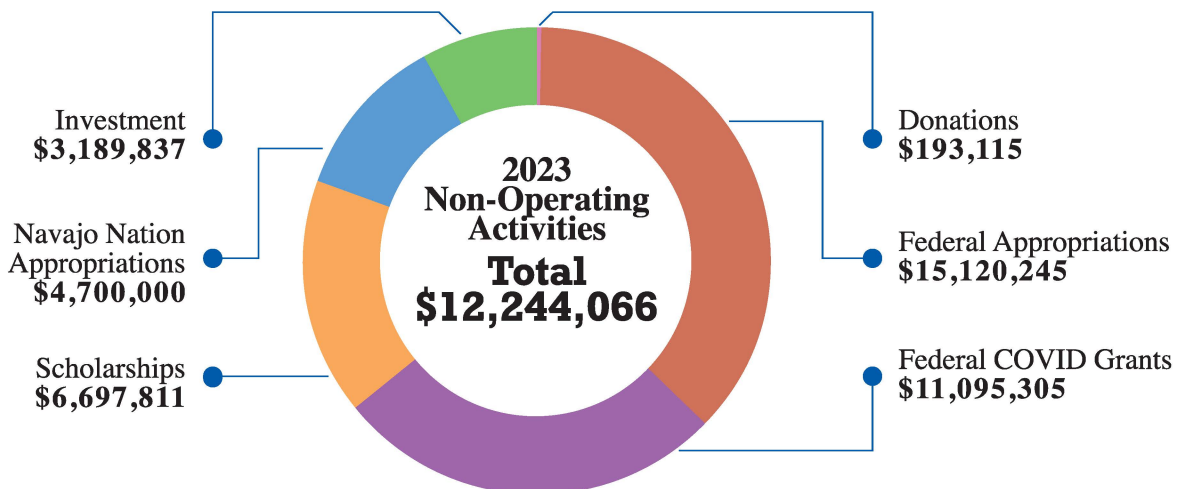
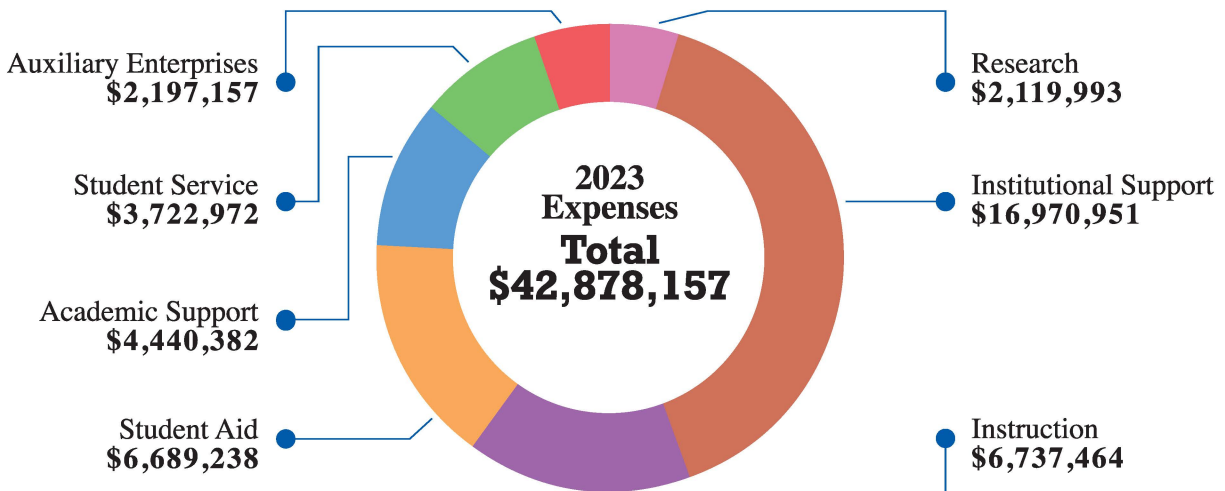
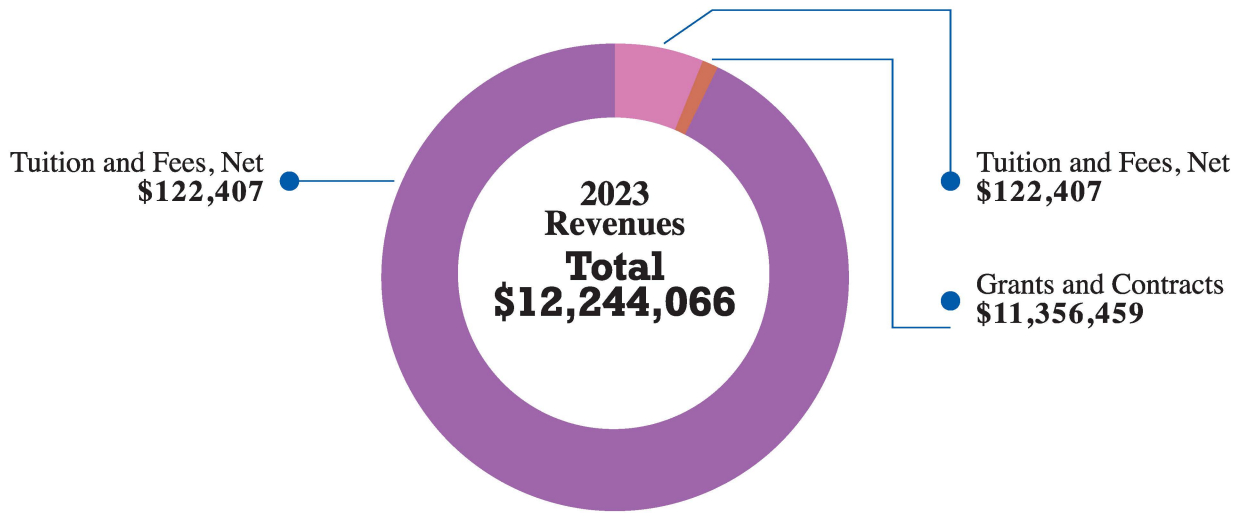
*Total in
TUITION GRANTS*

\$1,612,562.05

In 2023, net operating results showed a deficit of \$30.6 million. Operating revenue varies year to year due to changes in enrollment, impacting tuition, federal student aid, and auxiliary enterprises. Operating expenses rose by 4%, primarily due to increased costs in essential mission areas such as Student Aid, Academic Support, Student Services, and Auxiliary Services. Conversely, expenses in Instruction, Research, and Institutional Support saw a slight decrease. Nonoperating activities led to a positive change in net assets of \$11.5 million, driven by increased Federal Appropriations, Scholarships, and Investment Income, despite a decline in Capital Appropriations, Grants, and Gifts.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY				
REVENUES	2020	2021	2022	2023
Tuition and Fees, net	284,981	231,730	176,463	122,407
Grants and Contracts	6,894,983	7,672,195	9,971,151	11,356,459
Auxiliary Enterpriss	768,887	473,922	574,098	765,200
Total Revenue	7,948,851	8,377,847	10,721,712	12,244,066
EXPENSES	2020	2021	2022	2023
Instruction	8,542,925	7,757,554	7,068,000	6,737,464
Research	1,643,252	1,720,587	2,620,559	2,119,993
Public Service	562	-	-	-
Student aid	4,783,223	5,605,651	5,238,587	6,689,238
Academic support	2,357,761	2,369,809	4,398,665	4,440,382
Student Service	1,302,894	2,193,172	3,132,217	3,722,972
Institutional support	14,685,620	19,036,816	17,251,505	16,970,951
Auxilliary enterprises	1,720,580	1,374,614	1,476,348	2,197,157
Total Expenses	35,036,817	40,058,203	41,185,881	42,878,157
Net Operating Results	(27,087,966)	(31,680,356)	(30,464,169)	(30,634,091)
NONOPERATING ACTIVITIES	2020	2021	2022	2023
Federal appropriations	13,967,528	14,723,805	14,286,782	15,120,245
Navajo Nation appropriations	4,699,999	4,700,000	4,700,000	4,700,000
Federal COVID Grants	3,482,821	11,304,317	13,336,553	11,095,305
Loan Forgiveness	-	3,380,851	-	-
Scholarships	6,844,710	6,187,880	5,438,470	6,697,811
Investment income	730,622	1,453,796	(2,645,324)	3,189,837
Donations	-	-	2,096,554	193,115
Net Nonoperating Activities	29,725,680	41,750,649	37,213,035	40,996,313
Capital Appropriations, grants & gifts	1,105,554	4,913,634	12,388,061	1,150,151
Total Nonoperating Activities	30,831,234	46,664,283	49,601,096	42,146,464
CHANGE IN NET POSITION	3,743,268	14,983,927	19,136,927	11,512,373

2023 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

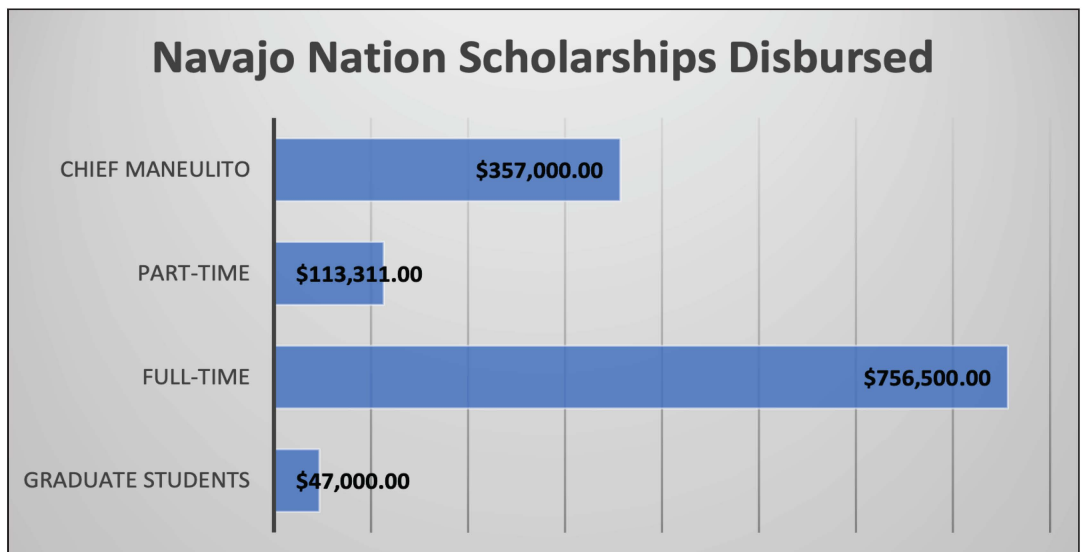
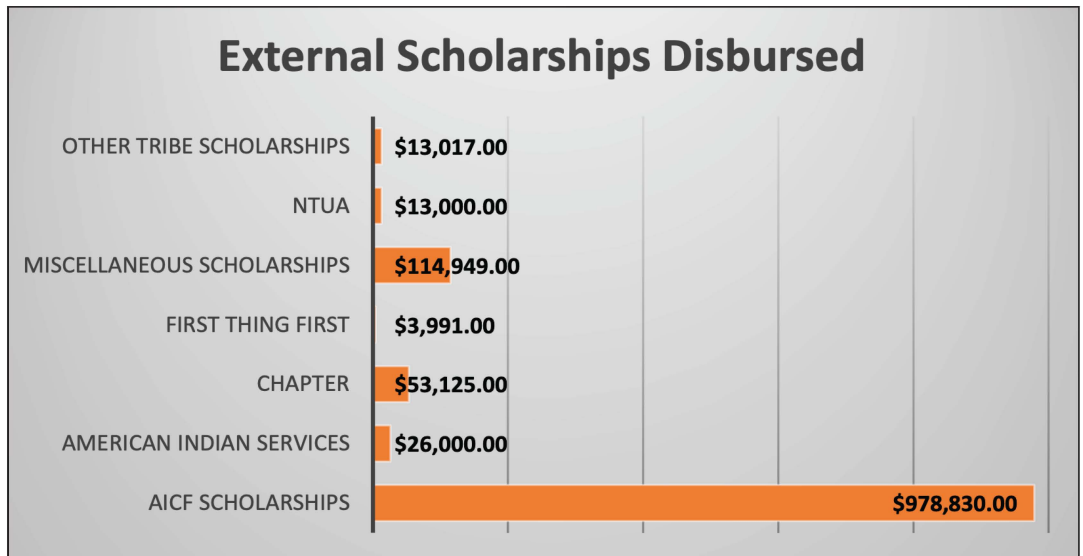
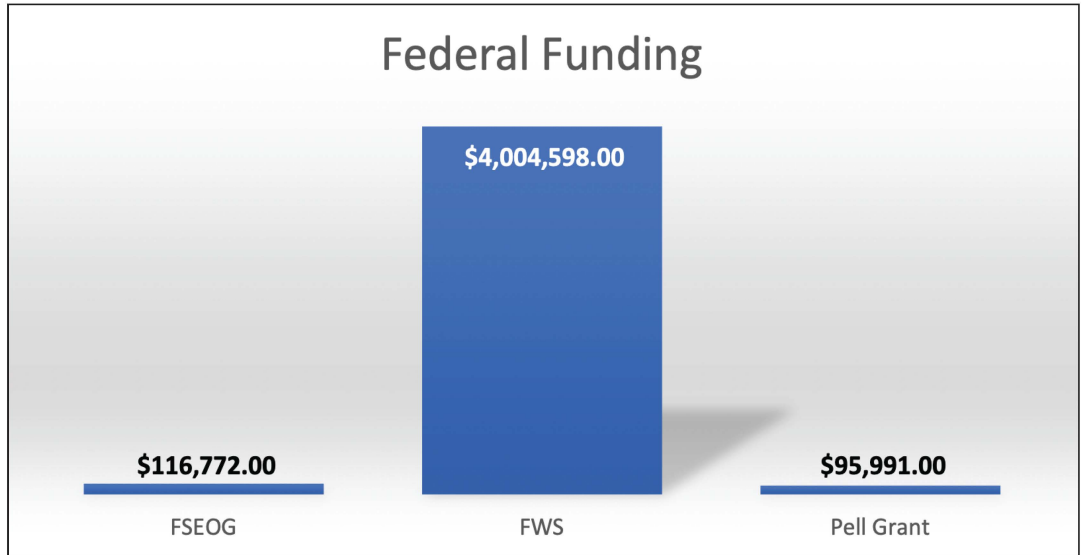


FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION (FY2023-24)

The Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships offers financial assistance to students enrolled in a degree program. Diné College participates in the Title IV programs including (Federal Pell Grant, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG), and Federal Work Study (FWS).

The chart provides a breakdown of scholarships and grant awards disbursed during the 2023-2024 academic year. It is evident that there are both external and internal sources of funding, with varying scholarship amounts and numbers of recipients.

The Office of Navajo Nation Scholarship and Financial Assistance (ONNSFA) Full-Time scholarships stand out as the largest in terms of total disbursed funds, while the American Indian College Fund Scholarships have a relatively high average scholarship amount. The chart reflects a commitment to supporting students through a wide range of financial aid opportunities.



OCTOBER 2023

Diné College Board of Regents Appoints Sen. Theresa Hatathlie as New Chair

The Diné College Board of Regents is pleased to announce the appointment of Theresa Hatathlie as the new Chair of the Board. This historic decision was reached during the annual board meeting held on October 4, 2023. Theresa Hatathlie brings a wealth of experience and a deep commitment to Diné College, which has been an integral part of her family's history.



Sihaasin Holdings: A New Dawn in Economic Development for Diné College

The Diné College Board of Regents announces the establishment of Sihaasin Holdings, a tribally owned holding company established during the Diné College Annual Meeting on October 4, 2023. The mission of the holding company is to further enhance economic opportunities and foster sustainable growth within the Navajo Nation through Diné College.



Diné College Students Shine in American Indian College Fund's "Honoring those Who Hold Us: An Elder Story Series"

Students from Diné College have left an indelible mark with their literary talents in the esteemed American Indian College Fund's "Honoring those Who Hold Us: An Elder Story Series" project. This recognition highlights the exceptional work of the students from Senior Lecturer Shaina Nez's Creative Writing courses and Assistant Professor Brie Jontry's ENG 101 courses, who have showcased their remarkable creativity and writing skills in a project that pays tribute to the wisdom and stories of our elders.

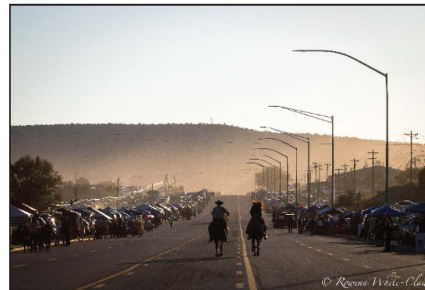
NOVEMBER 2023



Diné College Student and Military Veteran, Cyrus Norcross, Honored with Prestigious Journalism Award

Diné College proudly announces that Cyrus Norcross, an exceptional student, has received the esteemed journalism award from Military in Veterans in Journalism. This award, evaluated by distinguished industry veterans, including the renowned former CNN correspondent Barbara Starr, stands as a testament to Norcross's remarkable contributions to the world of journalism.

DECEMBER 2023



Rowena W.



Scott Tom

Diné College BFA Graphic Design Students Shine Bright with Winning Art Entries

Diné College announced the outstanding achievements of two Bachelor Fine Arts (BFA) students in Graphic Design, Rowena W. and Scott Tom, whose exceptional artistic talents have been recognized in prestigious competitions. Rowena W. earned acclamation for her submission to the Los Angeles Photography Awards. Scott Tom emerged victorious in the National Urban Indian Family Coalition Democracy is Indigenous Call for Artists contest.

Diné College President Roessel Appointed to USDA Tribal Advisory Committee

In a significant recognition of Diné College's leadership and commitment to tribal communities, Diné College President, Dr. Charles "Monty" Roessel is appointed to the USDA Tribal Advisory Committee. This prestigious appointment was made by Ranking Member David Scott (GA-13) is announced by Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack during the White House Tribal Nations Summit on December 6, 2023.



Diné College Celebrates Fall 2023 Commencement Ceremony with 25th Navajo Nation Council Speaker, Crystalline Curley

Diné College proudly holds its Fall 2023 Commencement Ceremony on December 8th at the Piñon Pit Gymnasium, located at the main campus in Tsaile, Arizona. The ceremony marked a significant milestone as 87 graduates were conferred with a total of 91 degrees and certificates.



Diné College Receives Prestigious Awards from Economic Development Administration to Propel Economic Growth Initiatives in Navajo Nation

In a significant boost to its ongoing initiatives, Diné College is granted two awards by the Economic Development Administration (EDA) to conduct feasibility studies aimed at fostering economic growth within the Navajo Nation. The first award, totaling \$350,000, will facilitate an in-depth examination of the feasibility of establishing a new wool mill.

Diné College Co-Grant Directors, Shaina Nez and Crystal Littleben, Receive NM Creative Industries Funds for 2024 Diné Artisan/Author Fellowship

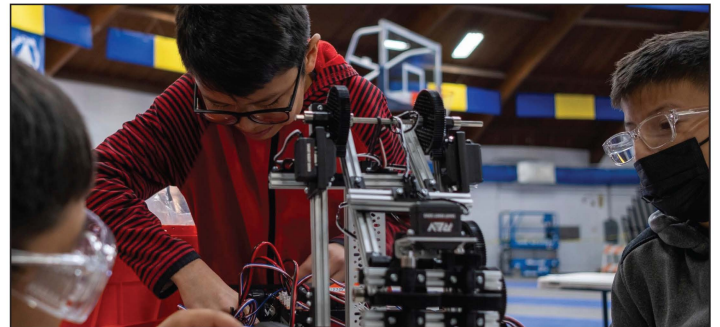
Diné College in Shiprock, New Mexico, receives \$100,000.00 for the "Diné Artisans and Authors for Capacity Building Institute (DAACBI)," which will support the development of allying emerging and established creative entrepreneurs in New Mexico with technical and professional services and expertise.



Diné College Secures \$1.2 Million Grant from Department of Energy for STEM Building Enhancement

Diné College is pleased to announce the receipt of a significant grant from the Department of Energy, for \$1.2 million, to support STEM and environmental education at its Shiprock South campus. This funding will specifically support the acquisition of Furniture, Fixtures, and Equipment (FF&E) for the new STEM building, a vital addition to the campus infrastructure.

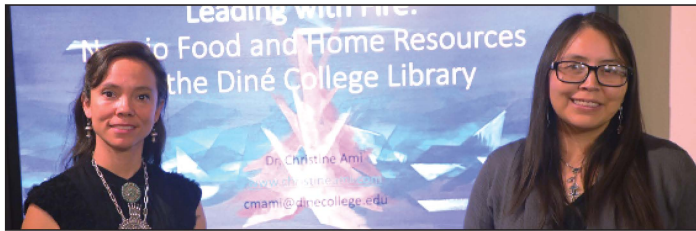
JANUARY 2024



Diné College Hosts the Inaugural Rezbotics Robotics Competition Event

RezBotics is a STEM-based competition event geared toward middle and high school students to improve their technical skills. Teams of 15 students from grades 7 to 12 partook in the FIRST (First, Inspiration, Recognition, and Technology) Tech Challenge, where they were tasked with designing, programming, and operating robots for competition in an alliance format. Under the guidance of adult coaches and mentors, these young minds honed their STEM abilities and engineering principles.

FEBRUARY 2024



Diné Leading with Fire: Diné College Libraries Special Collections Series Commences

Dr. Christine Ami, an Associate Professor at the School of Business & Social Science at Diné College, kicked off the first of the three-part Kinyaa'áanii Library Special Collections Series. This series, which is funded through the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, highlights essential special collections resources at the library that define the educational and self-deterministic legacy of the college. Dr. Ami, who is also a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow, discussed the role of these collections in her forthcoming publications on Navajo sheep butchering and the Navajo cultural arts.



Diné College Hosts a Campus Tour for Baboquavari High School Students

Diné College Office of Outreach and Recruitment hosted a Campus Tour for 41 students and staff from Baboquavari High School, Topawa, AZ., located on the Tohono O'odham Nation.



Diné College's Dual Credit Program Offered a Tour for Navajo Pine High School Students

A group of 45 students from Navajo Pine High School, comprising both freshmen and sophomore students, had the opportunity to explore various facilities on campus. During their visit, the students had the chance to visit multiple departments at Diné College and get a firsthand look at what college life is like.

MARCH 2024



Diné College Rodeo Team Shines at the University of Arizona NIRA Intercollegiate Rodeo

The Diné College Rodeo Team, under the leadership of Coach Ed Holyan and Athletic Manager Brandon G. Begaye, demonstrated outstanding performance at the University of Arizona Intercollegiate Rodeo event. Coach Holyan commended the new team members for their outstanding victory in team roping, emphasizing the team's collective dedication to improvement and hard work.



Diné College Recruitment Efforts with Engaging Campus Tour for Many Farms High School Students

Diné College recently welcomed a group of prospective students from Many Farms High School as part of its recruitment efforts. During their visit, the students were given a tour of the campus, visited the radio station, and participated in a career fair. They were also part of the Dual Credit Program, which allows them to earn college credits while in high school.

**President of
Diné College Named
2023-2024
TRIBAL COLLEGE
PRESIDENT
HONOREE OF THE
YEAR
by the American
Indian College
Fund**



Dr. Charles M. Roessel, President of Diné College, has been named the 2023-2024 Tribal College President Honoree of the Year by the American Indian College Fund, which recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to the tribal college movement.



**Diné College's BFA Graphic Design Alumnus
Creates a Pendleton Blanket Design**

Troy Tso is a graduate of Diné College, having completed his Bachelor Fine Arts Degree in Graphic Design in December 2021. Although he had always been interested in graphic art and design, Tso found that this experience allowed him to explore and develop his passion in new and exciting ways. His design was chosen to be printed on a wool shawl that Pendleton Mills produced, and he was awarded a scholarship from Pendleton Woolen.



**Diné College Students Competed at 2024
AIHEC in Minneapolis, MN**

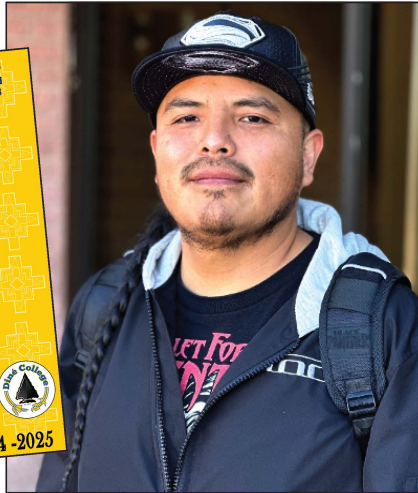
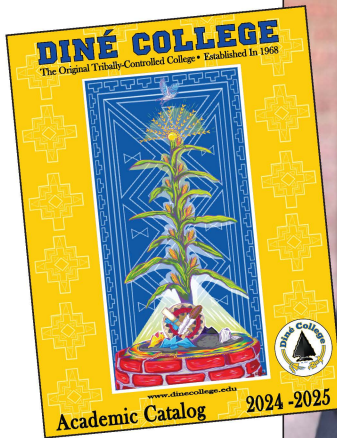
A group of Diné College students set off on a week-long journey to Minneapolis, Minnesota, to compete in the 2024 American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC) Student Conference. The students' journey to the Woodlands Region, hosted by 11 northern tribal colleges and universities, is a testament to their academic pursuits and desire to represent the Navajo People among half of the 573 federally recognized tribes in the United States.

APRIL 2024



**American Indian College Fund awarded Diné
College the 23-27 Cultivating Native Student
Success (CNSS) Grant**

Diné College announced its recent award of the 2023-2027 Cultivating Native Student Success (CNSS) Grant from the American Indian College Fund (AICF). This significant achievement underscores the ongoing commitment to enhancing the educational journey and outcomes for Native students.



Diné College Student Places Design in the 2024-2025 Diné College Academic Catalog

Diné College announced the selection of Karl Pino's Artwork for the cover of the 2024-2025 Academic Catalog. Pino, who's pursuing dual majors in Fine Arts and Health Occupations, has showcased his talent and vision through his design, inspired by the natural beauty and cultural significance of the cornstalk situated outside the college library.

Elxcia N. Smith Honored with the 2024 TCJ Student Award

The Tribal College Journal (TCJ) is proud to announce Elxcia Nanabah Smith as the recipient of the 2024 TCJ Student Award in Creative Writing for Best Non-Fiction. This honor celebrates the talent and perspective that Elxcia brings to the literary world, highlighting her ability to weave together narratives that reflect her writing skills.



First Annual AG Festival

Diné College Launches First Annual AG Festival in Partnership with Leading Agricultural Institutions

The inaugural AG Festival at Diné College was an event initiated by the Land Grant Office Extension and Outreach program. This first-of-its-kind festival, held in the Diné College Gymnasium, aimed to promote agricultural education, innovation, and sustainability within the community.



Nits'áá dóó ídahwiil'aah "We are learning from you" Spring Speaker Series featuring Renae Watchman, Author of "Restoring Relations Through Stories: From Dinétah to Denendah."

The Diné College Office of the President and the School of Arts and Humanities recently organized an installment of the Nits'áá dóó ídahwiil'aah "We are Learning from You" Spring Speaker Series. Dr. Renae Watchman, an author and associate professor of Indigenous Studies at McMaster University, provided insights.



Diné College Athletics Rodeo Team Competes at NMSU Collegiate Rodeo in Las Cruces, NM

The Diné College Athletics Rodeo Team demonstrated its skills and team spirit at the New Mexico State University (NMSU) Collegiate Rodeo. The victory showcased their skills and highlighted their ability in the sport. Lane Bitsilly and Dean Holyan secured a win in Team Roping, with Holyan also taking the top spot in Tie Down, extending the team's reign in the rodeo arena.



Congressional and Navajo Nation Leaders Discuss Future of Higher Education at Diné College

Diné College representatives held a meeting on April 26, 2024. Tribal and federal officials came together to examine the progress and future initiatives aimed at enhancing higher education within the Navajo Nation. Greg Smith, Chief of Staff for Congressman Eli Crane, alongside Delegate Shawna Ann Claw of the 25th Navajo Nation Council (Chinle), engaged in discussions with Diné College administrators, including Crystal Carr, Director of Legislative Affairs and Special Projects, and Leon Jackson from the Department of Capital Projects.

MAY 2024



Diné College Celebrates Employee Dedication and Service at Recognition Event

Diné College celebrated the dedication and hard work of its exceptional employees at the Farmington Courtyard Marriott Conference Center. The employee recognition event, held on May 2, 2024, was organized by the Diné College Human Resources Department and brought together staff, faculty, and administrators to acknowledge their outstanding contributions to the college community.



Diné College Celebrates Spring 2024 Commencement Ceremony with Madam Chair Shelly C. Lowe

Diné College held the Spring 2024 Commencement Ceremony in front of the Kinyaa'áanii Library, marking a significant milestone for the graduating class of 2024. Diné College awarded 118 degrees and certificates to 114 graduates, with some achieving multiple degrees. Additionally, nine adult education graduates were honored during the ceremony. The ceremony featured Commencement Speaker Shelly C. Lowe, Chair of the National Endowment for the Humanities. As a citizen of the Navajo Nation from Ganado, Arizona, Lowe's address drew from her experience in higher education and leadership roles, inspiring and motivating the graduates.



Dzilth-Na-O-Dith-Hle Community School Visits Diné College in Cultural Enrichment Field Trip

In a significant cultural immersion initiative, Dzilth-Na-O-Dith-Hle Community School, under the leadership of Mr. Fritzgerald Clark, the Native Language Culture Lead Teacher, facilitated a field trip to Diné College on May 15, 2024. Organized in collaboration with the Diné College Office of Outreach & Recruitment, the event saw participation of 65 students from 4th to 7th grade.



Diné College and Arizona State University Forge Historic Alliance to Launch BA in Navajo Law Program

In an unprecedented collaboration, Diné College and Arizona State University (ASU) have unveiled plans for a Bachelor of Arts in Navajo Law program, a groundbreaking initiative aimed at fostering legal expertise within the Navajo Nation. This initiative was approved by the Diné College Board of Regents during its May 3rd board meeting.

JUNE 2024



Empowering Tribal Students; Engagement and Enrollment Strategies

Diné College representatives attended the Cultivating Native Student Success Convening hosted by the American Indian College Fund in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The staff and members met to strengthen relationships with partners, collaboratively envision future initiatives, share experiences, and deepen their understanding of the Native student journey and strategic enrollment management within Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs).

Diné College Launches CONVOY Project to Blend Traditional and Western Medicines

Diné College has launched its first cohort of Mentor Avatars and Mentees under the CONVOY project, a program integrating Diné Traditional Medicine with Western Medicine. Sponsored by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Science Education Partnership Award (SEPA) for 2023-2028, this initiative aims to motivate youth towards careers in biomedical sciences through hands-on experiments in life chemistry, infectious diseases, biomedical engineering, traditional medicine, and more. High school participants can also earn dual credit through a specially designed Navajo traditions and culture class.



Diné College Sponsors Fruit Scramble at “Checkerboard” Indian Junior Rodeo Association Event in Crownpoint, NM

Diné College helped sponsor the “Checkerboard” Indian Junior Rodeo Association (IJRA) event, reinforcing its commitment to enriching the lives of youth through the sport of rodeo. The Diné College’s External Campus at Crownpoint provided essential items for the “Fruit Scramble” event during the rodeo’s intermission.



JULY 2024



Diné College Future Leaders Symposium

Diné College hosted the Future Leaders Symposium, an event to empower future Diné leaders. Highlights of the symposium included insights from the FBI presentation, inspiration from the distinguished keynote speaker, a BBQ lunch on the quad, and an opportunity to engage with experts during the professional panel. The symposium aimed to provide participants with information and skills, promoting community motivation by informed leaders.



Diné College Recognized as an Outstanding Volunteer from the Arizona Department of Transportation Adopt a Highway Program

The Diné College Window Rock Center, embarked on a community service that was generated by a Learning Center coordinator in 2017. Since then, the center has been actively involved in the Arizona Department of Transportation's "Adopt a Highway," a program that allows individuals, organizations, and businesses to take responsibility for cleaning up a designated stretch of highway.



Heights and Flowing Water, The Warriors Enjoy Another Colorado Sunset

Through a collaborative effort, Diné College's First Year Experience, Peer Mentor and Student Wellness Programs took 22 Warriors on the 2024 Summer Institute (SI) Close-Out Trip to Durango, CO. Of the 22 Warriors, 16 were SI students and 6 were student mentors. The SI Program is a college transition program that is specially designed to create and improve avenues of success, enhance life skills and create social opportunities for newly accepted Diné College freshmen.



Diné College Joins the 46th Annual Eastern Navajo Nation Parade

Diné College participated in the 46th Annual Eastern Navajo Nation Parade. The Eastern Navajo Fair, known for being the first of all Navajo Nation's fair parades each fall semester, this year's theme: "Honoring our Diné Legacy of Service."

The event provided an excellent opportunity to connect with the community and highlight the achievements of alumni.



(Photo: Courtesy of Vassar College)

The Success of Three Diné College Students at Vassar College Exploring Transfer Program Highlights Transformative Academic Experience

Diné College announced the exceptional achievements of three Diné College students in the Vassar Exploring Transfer (ET) Program this summer. The program has proven to be a transformative experience that changed their academic journeys while doing personal growth. The selected students, Autumn C. Russell, Jessica L. Taylor, and Tylia S. Begaye, each have demonstrated outstanding academic achievement and a deep commitment to personal and community development, making them ideal representatives for this program.

AUGUST 2024



Diné College Celebrates Successful Summer Institute Program with Closing Banquet

Diné College held a closing banquet for 23 students for the 2024 Summer Institute, organized by the Diné College First Year Experience and Student Affairs departments. The Summer Institute Program is designed to provide first-time college students with an early introduction to college life, allowing them to experience the academic and social aspects of higher education.



Run, Hide, Fight: Surviving an Active Shooter Training

The Louisiana State University (LSU) National Center for Biomedical Research and Training (NCBRT) conducted a comprehensive two-day training program focused on surviving an active shooter event. The training workshop, 'Surviving an Active Threat: Run. Hide. Fight.', was specifically developed to provide situational awareness and practical techniques that can be immediately applied in active threat situations. The training was organized by the Shiprock Community Partnership in Safety, aimed at participants from Diné College, Shiprock Associated Schools, Inc. (SASI), and community entities, including College students, neighboring business professionals, and local first responders to undergo several scenarios of possible active threats that may enter the schools.



Diné College Hosts Employee Wellness Day

In celebration of health and community, the Diné College Department of Human Resources and the External Campuses came together to host a Wellness Day filled with engaging activities and a delicious meal. The Employee Wellness Program is designed to empower staff through a variety of wellness initiatives, underscoring Diné College's commitment to a healthy, balanced work environment.

SEPTEMBER 2024

Diné College's Nits'áá dóó ídahwiil'aah Fellow Shares Artistic Journey

Diné College invited students and faculty to join an innovative Augmented Reality (AR) project designed to enhance learning and creativity through cutting-edge technology. Akilah Martinez, Diné College's Nits'áá dóó ídahwiil'aah fellow, is known for her expertise in integrating augmented reality within artistic frameworks that integrate Indigenous language and culturally appropriate content. Martinez introduced the concept of Social Impact and Economic Equality through XR, providing participants with insights into this transformative approach. This event represents a unique chance for students and faculty to collaborate on a project that merges art with technology, fostering an environment of innovation and learning.



Diné College Showcased Cultural Pride at the 76th Annual Navajo Nation Fair Parade

Diné College participated in the 76th Annual Navajo Nation Fair Parade, highlighting its commitment to cultural preservation and education. Organized under the direction of the Diné College Office of Outreach & Recruitment, & Security, along with ambassador students and in collaboration with Dual Credit Program at Window Rock High School.

Diné College achieved second place in the Schools & Youth Programs category. The event celebrates the Navajo culture and community spirit.

Diné College Appoints Dr. Alysa Landry as New Provost

Diné College proudly announces the appointment of Dr. Alysa Landry as its new provost. As a seasoned journalist, biographer, and academic deeply rooted in the Navajo Nation, Dr. Landry's leadership is expected to enhance the college's educational offerings and support its unique mission. Dr. Landry, who holds master's degrees in journalism and creative nonfiction and a Ph.D. in Holocaust and Genocide Studies, aims to address the unique challenges faced by tribal colleges, balancing cultural knowledge with modern educational practices.

Diné College Marketing & Communications Department Welcomes Fall 2024 Student Interns

Christopher Davis

A clan member of the Dziłt'ahnii (Mountain Cove) and Tó'aheedlínii (Water Flows Together Clan), Christopher is a full-time student pursuing a Bachelor of Arts at Diné College's Tsaile Campus. He brings his passion for photography and videography to his internship, where he looks forward to collaborating with the marketing team to create engaging content.



Christopher aims to meet industry standards and contribute to key projects while further developing his media skills through mentorship from seasoned professionals.

Krystal Nelson

Originally from Navajo, New Mexico, Krystal's clans are Tódich'íi'nii, Kinyaa'áanii, Táchii'nii and Honágháahnii.

Krystal is pursuing a Bachelor Fine Arts in Graphic Design at Diné College. With four years in the program, she joined the Marketing team in Summer 2024 through the Ascendium program, which provides students with invaluable real-world experience.



Krystal's internship has enhanced her confidence and allowed her to take on significant responsibilities, including designing illustrations, logos, and other marketing materials. She credits her mentors with providing essential guidance that has fostered her professional growth.

Together, Christopher and Krystal exemplify the talent and commitment of Diné College students. The college community is eager to see their contributions throughout the semester and the positive impact they will have on the department's initiatives.

SCHOOL OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES

Dean's Message

Dr. Haesong Kwon

"True education is the transfer of life energy to the next generation",

explains former Navajo Nation Council delegate Tom Chee. What might this mean for us, for Diné College, for the School of Arts and Humanities? The Arts and Humanities faculty guide their students in creating work that has never seen life before – a piece of jewelry, a poem, a textual analysis, a painting. Through care and arduous work, a life energy is born, to be shared, as reminders, that we are a collective people. I am grateful for the time and space provided for us at Diné College, where faculty and students engage in dialogue, and where conscientious, unique creators are born. Our strength is the language spoken in these conversations, a language that is informed by what is already around us and what is already within us.

In the 2023-2024 academic year, the School of Arts and Humanities at Diné College has seen exceptional contributions from our faculty members, reflecting their dedication to scholarship, creative expression, and community engagement. This year's highlights showcase our faculty's impact both within and beyond our campus, illustrating their commitment to advancing the fields of arts and humanities through innovative research, publication, and public presentations.

Faculty Achievements

Dr. Karla Britton, Professor

Professor Karla Britton has made significant strides in architectural scholarship and has actively contributed to professional dialogues in her field. Her publication, "The Persistent Resurgence of Sacred Architecture," featured in the Spring 2024 issue of *Oneing: Art and Spirituality*, delves into the evolving role of sacred spaces in contemporary architectural practice.

Britton has been a dynamic presence at various prestigious forums. At the annual international meeting of the Society of Architectural Historians in Albuquerque, NM, she presented "Moving Beyond J.B. Jackson: Uranium Country in the Navajo Landscape" as part of the session "The Politics of Landscape: J.B. Jackson in the Contemporary World" on April 18, 2024. Her insights into the interplay between landscape politics and cultural heritage were highly acclaimed.

Furthering her engagement with architectural discourse,



Dr. Britton presented "Architectural Narratives of Restoration" at the Self and Space colloquium at the Yale School of Architecture on September 9, 2024. Additionally, she contributed to a virtual conference session titled "The Circle of Life: Symbolic Resonance of the Diné College Campus" on September 19, 2024, organized by the Society of Architectural Historians. Her lecture "Superior Civilizations: Native Architecture of the American Southwest" was also featured in Yale College's ARCH 260/ HSAR 360 History of Architecture courses on November 9, 2023, and November 7, 2024.

Brie Jontry, Assistant Professor

Professor Brie Jontry has championed the integration of Diné epistemologies with contemporary academic discourse. Her ENG 102 course students have made a notable impact with their article "Hayootkáál (A New Dawn): Diné College Students Envision AI Through a Lens of Diné Epistemologies," published in the Winter 2024 AI edition of the *Tribal College Journal*. This work exemplifies how traditional knowledge can inform modern technological contexts.

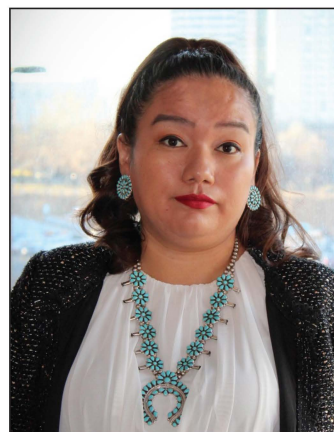
Jontry's students were also invited to the 5th Epistemological Foundations Conversation at Concordia University in Montreal. This event provided a platform for exploring the safe and culturally respectful implementation of artificial intelligence, reflecting Jontry's commitment to bridging technological advancements with Diné cultural values.

Dr. Haesong Kwon, Interim Dean

Poet and Interim Dean Haesong Kwon has enriched the literary community with his recent publications. His poems appeared in the esteemed *Prairie Schooner* and *Southern Humanities Review*. Additionally, Kwon contributed to the Mari Sandoz Society Story Catcher 2024 Summer Workshops at Western Colorado University and participated as a reader for a Palestine relief fundraiser hosted by Kundiman Southwest.

Jesse Maloney, Assistant Professor

Jesse Maloney's role as the poetry editor for *Cutthroat: A Journal of the Arts* highlights his influence in the literary world. His editorial work continues to shape the discourse around contemporary poetry and support emerging voices.



Shaina Nez, Senior Lecturer

Shaina Nez has made contributions through her publications and public engagements. Her 2024 works include several notable pieces: "COVID-19 Memory Dreamscape" in *COVID-19 in Indian Country*, "Diné Brevity as Indigenous Theory" in *Indigenous Poetics*, and various nonfiction and short story contributions to

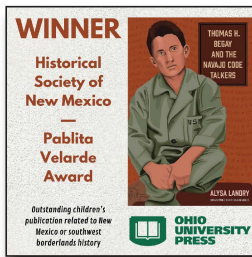
anthologies such as *Gathering Points* and *Indigenous Futurisms for Young Adults*.

In recognition of her innovative contributions, Nez was awarded the Seven Generations Innovators Award by the American Indian College Fund in fall 2023. She utilized this award to organize the Diné nishłı́ 'I Am' reading event, featuring works by Diné College students and guest poets, enriching the local literary scene.

At the 2024 Association of Writers and Writing Programs (AWP) conference, Nez participated in the panel "Snap, Crackle, Prose: Telling Our Stories in 300 Words or Less," promoting the anthology *Nonwhite and Women: 131 Micro-Essays on Being in the World*, which received a Silver IPPY Award. Nez's contributions to this anthology, including her essays "Haz'a (Space)" and "To My Daughter's Future Bullies," were particularly celebrated.

Orlando White, Instructor

Orlando White's forthcoming chapbook of Diné one-word poems, scheduled for release in Spring 2025 by Sputnik and Fizzle press, promises to be a groundbreaking addition to Indigenous literature. His role as a visiting poet at the University of Notre Dame's MFA program in creative writing further demonstrates his influence and engagement with the broader literary community.



Dr. Alys Landry, Provost

Dr. Alys Landry, Provost at Diné College, has been awarded the Pablita Velarde Award for an Outstanding Children's Publication related to New Mexico or Southwest borderlands history. This award recognizes her outstanding work on the biography "Thomas H. Begay and the Navajo Code Talkers," a captivating read composed for young readers. Drawing heavily from interviews with Begay—who, now in his late nineties, is one of only three surviving code talkers—Landry captures his voice and humor, making this biography meaningful. It is the only Code Talker biography for young readers told from the perspective of a soldier.

Begay was deeply involved in the project, granting Landry unlimited access to his military documents, personal photos, and oral history. His family also contributed by reading and fact-checking the manuscript, ensuring the book's accuracy and authenticity. Landry's background in journalism has equipped her to write engaging nonfiction and creative nonfiction, skillfully blending interviews, archival research, and other published accounts. This biography not only tells Begay's story but also places it within the broader context of the other 429 code talkers who served during the war.

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND SOCIAL SCIENCE

Patrick Blackwater, Dean

As a tribal institution of higher education, we are navigating an exciting and transformative era on the Navajo Nation.

The importance of dedicated instructors, motivated students, and technology-driven educational systems has never been greater. The School of Business and Social Science remains dedicated to forging career pathways for our students and prioritizing our work with both students and community members.

Embracing change has become a vital part of our progress, and we take pride in our ongoing commitment to continuous improvement for our students, our communities, and the Navajo Nation.



New Degree Program:

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN NAVAJO NATION LAW



Building Futures, Upholding Values: Navajo Law Education

The Bachelor of Arts in Navajo Nation Law program was established within the School of Business and Social Science at Diné College. The curriculum is designed to offer a comprehensive understanding of Navajo Nation Law, preparing students for a variety of career paths within the field.

The Navajo Nation Law academic program is rooted in the Navajo Philosophy of Sa'ah Naagháí Bik'eh Hózhóón, which emphasizes harmony, balance, and holistic well-being. It is dedicated to supporting the Navajo Nation and other indigenous communities by advocating for the preservation, protection, and enhancement of tribal sovereignty and indigenous rights.

The program places a strong emphasis on Navajo law and how Navajo fundamental law shapes the unique legal frameworks of the Navajo Nation.

Students will engage in a comprehensive study of legal theories, real-world case studies, and strategic methodologies that are pertinent to tribal law.

The curriculum covers the historical trajectory of federal Indian law, the principle of tribal self-determination, and the specific fiduciary responsibilities relevant to the Navajo Nation.

It includes immersive experiences in traditional Navajo governance practices and explores contemporary challenges and opportunities in tribal law.

Upon completion of the program, students will not only acquire an in-depth understanding of both Navajo and Western legal systems but also the practical skills required to make significant contributions to the progress and welfare of their community. This will enable them to safeguard the ongoing strength and endurance of tribal autonomy and cultural legacy.

Talia Laughter, Student

Talia Laughter, a member of the Tsédeeshgizhnii (Rock Gap) clan and born for the Naaneesht'ézhí (Charcoal Streak Division of Táchii'nii The Red Running Into Water) clan, her maternal grandfathers are Kinkichí'nii (Red House people), and her paternal grandfathers are Tódích'iinii (Bitter Water people) is a dedicated resident of Le Chee, Arizona.



As a devoted wife and mother, Talia has pursued her passion for mathematics, earning an Associate of Science degree from Diné College. She is currently advancing her education by pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Navajo Nation Law.

The Bachelor of Arts in Navajo Nation Law program at Diné College is strategically designed to impact the Navajo Nation and its communities. This program offers a thorough understanding of both tribal and federal law, aiming to preserve and strengthen the sovereignty of the Navajo Nation. It also addresses the need for legal professionals who not only grasp the complexities of the law but also respect and incorporate Navajo cultural values.

Through this program, students gain the expertise needed to represent Navajo communities effectively and manage legal matters with a strong sense of self-sufficiency, thereby empowering the community from within.

In addition to her academic pursuits, Talia is committed to supporting tribal members with special needs.

She provides personalized guidance through the complex processes of self-advocacy and education, ensuring they have access to the resources and support structures necessary for thriving within their communities.

James Nez, Adjunct Faculty

Dr. James Nez, Esq., is a distinguished adjunct faculty member at Diné College, where he is instrumental in launching two new courses: "Navajo Fundamental Law I" and "Navajo Public Speaking." With over 13 years of experience as a general legal practitioner on the Navajo Nation, Dr. Nez is a member in good standing of the Navajo Nation Bar Association and currently serves on the Bar Board of Commissioners for the Kayenta Judicial District.

Dr. Nez, who identifies as Kinkichiinii and Ashjiihí, brings a rich cultural heritage to his teaching. His courses provide students with an in-depth review of Navajo Nation case law, taught bilingually in Navajo and English, as well as a focus on the unique techniques of Navajo public speaking. These offerings reflect Diné College's commitment to culturally relevant education, preparing students for leadership roles within and beyond the Navajo Nation.

In addition to his role at Diné College, Dr. Nez is the Executive Director of the Nahata Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to community development, and serves as the school board president for Kayenta Unified School District. A graduate of several institutions, including Arizona State University and Prescott College, he is currently pursuing professional development training with Harvard Business School and a Juris Doctorate through Northwestern California University School of Law.

Milton Bluehouse, Jr., Associate Professor

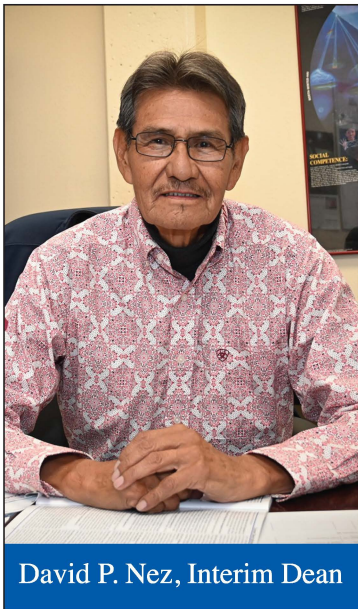
Milton Bluehouse Jr., is a citizen of the Navajo Nation and teaches at Diné College in the School of Business and Social Science. He is the former Deputy Chief of Staff for the Office of the President and Vice President of the Navajo Nation. Mr. Bluehouse has spent the last twenty-eight years working in inter-governmental relations, including facilitating and mediating numerous Federal, State, and Tribal issues, as well as providing government training for federal and state agencies, corporations, and non-governmental organizations.

The Native American issues he has worked on include healthcare policy and appropriations, environment and natural resources, economic development, social services,



education, public safety, emergency management, and legislative research, analysis, and advocacy. He served in the United States Marine Corps (1991 – 1995). He is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison Law School (2004) and the University of Arizona (2001).

SCHOOL OF DINÉ STUDIES AND EDUCATION



David P. Nez, Interim Dean

For the upcoming year, School of Diné Studies and Education (SDSE) will continue to ensure that course offerings meet student needs. It is evident that students require modalities of instruction that consist of face-to-face, online, and variations of hybrid models to achieve a successful academic year. SDSE employs faculty that incorporate Diné philosophy such as Diné-specific identity and the concept of k'é into instruction to make it meaningful and personal to their growth and development.



Northwest Teacher Education Program Highlights

The Northwest Teacher Education Program expanded training opportunities for teachers across the Navajo Nation. Over 276 teachers from over 18 schools (BIE, Grant/Charter/Public Schools) participated in the programs, Culturally Responsive Teaching & Science of Reading Workshops focused on helping teachers gain strategies to increase cultural representation on text, materials and activities for students. These workshops included culturally responsive pedagogy, writing literacy and high impact teaching practices in addition to training in using technology for 21st Century instruction.

SCHOOL OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS

James Tutt, Dean

The School of STEM has been actively recruiting new students for all our degree programs and has welcomed several new faculty members. Looking ahead, the School of STEM is excited to explore the development of a new Bachelor of Science degree program in Environmental Science, with plans to launch in Fall 2025. I am proud to report that we have achieved the largest enrollment in the academic year 2023-24, and we look forward to welcoming even more students in the upcoming academic year 2024-25.



Dr. Shazia Tabassum Hakim, Professor

Dr. Hakim has made substantial contributions to Diné College's academic and research initiatives. The Certified Medical Assistant (CMA) program, with its fourth cohort nearing graduation, continues to excel, boasting high pass rates and expanding externship sites. The Microbiology and Molecular Biology Research Lab, relocated to the Tuba City Center, is fully operational with advanced equipment, including a new inverted immunofluorescent digital microscope. This lab supports BSL level-II experiments and serves as a critical training hub, especially in light of recent health concerns in the Navajo Nation.

Dr. Hakim's research efforts include presentations at NSF-TCUP symposiums and ongoing work with MS students on water resource and antimicrobial studies. The CONVOY Project, supported by NIH-NIGMS-SEPA, engages high school and junior high students in biomedical research, fostering early academic interest. Additionally, Dr. Hakim has been selected for the MicroBio-LEAP Training-of-Leaders Program, promoting inclusive diversity in microbial sciences. Her dedication extends to various service roles, including club advisor ship and task force memberships, enhancing the college community and student experiences.



Harrison Cayatineto, Student

Harrison Cayatineto, a standout graduate of Diné College's Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Science program, completed his degree with a double major in Biology in Fall 2022.

He immediately joined the Master of Science in Biology program and is currently conducting research in Dr. Hakim's Lab at the Tuba City Center. Harrison has published a significant article on targeting Bovine Viral Diarrhea Virus (BVDV) and Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) with microRNA-based inhibitors, and has submitted another article on microRNA targeting within the Flaviviridae family to "Frontiers in Bioinformatics." His research, focusing on evaluating microRNAs' effects on BVDV and HepG2 cells, highlights his deep understanding and innovative approach.

Harrison aims to graduate with his MS in Biology in fall 2024, aspiring to become a specialist in infectious diseases and vaccine development, ultimately teaching as a Navajo virologist on the Navajo Nation.



Twila Hunt, Student

Twila Hunt, a standout student from the 4th cohort of the Certificate in Medical Assisting Program at Diné College's Tuba City Center, recently completed her comprehensive CMA training and achieved top marks on the national licensing exam administered by the National Healthcareer Association (NHA) in August 2024. Her exceptional performance highlights her academic excellence, dedication, and mastery of medical assisting skills, as well as the support of the faculty. Twila's success positions her as a leading candidate in the healthcare field. Committed to giving back to her community, she plans to apply her skills to serve the Diné communities and make a meaningful impact.

Her academic achievements and healthcare aspirations reflect her potential to be a compassionate and effective medical professional dedicated to improving the well-being of the Diné people.



Clarene Davis, Student

Clarene Davis from Many Farms, Arizona, is advancing in environmental science while pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture at Diné College. Motivated by a personal experience with water quality issues during her relative's kidney failure, Davis shifted from nursing to environmental science. She collaborates with Columbia University on research concerning arsenic and uranium contamination in bedrock aquifers, serving as a Summer Intern at the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory since May 2020. Her work includes developing communication materials for the Navajo Nation under the guidance of Dr. Paul Olsen and Clara Chang.

Davis's cultural heritage, including traditional practices and teachings from her family, informs her professional work. She participated in the JOIDES Resolution expedition, integrating Indigenous and Western science perspectives. Additionally, she contributes to the air quality program at the Salt River Pima reservation with the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP). Her journey underscores her dedication to improving environmental quality and promoting Indigenous perspectives.

Alana Benally, Student

Alana Benally, an Honors Scholar at Diné College, is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Science and a Master of Science in Biology, with graduation expected in December 2024 and May 2025, respectively. Under the mentorship of Dr. Oleksandr Makeyev, she recently delivered a talk at the IEEE Sensors Application Symposium in Naples, Italy.

Her presentation, based on improving signal quality from commercial electrodes used in electroencephalogram data. This research, part of her thesis work in the Mathematics for Engineering Applications Laboratory (MEA Lab), is funded by a National Science Foundation grant and involves collaboration with Universitat Politècnica de València in Spain. Benally's work, which optimizes software coefficients for better signal recording, earned her a competitive Student Travel Grant, showcasing her significant contributions to biomedical sciences and reflecting the high standards of Diné College's School of STEM.



SCHOOL OF TRANSFORMATION

Dean's Message

Timothy Nelson, Dean

As we move forward, the School of Transformation is poised to elevate our professional development training and certification programs to new heights.

Our focus this year is on expanding our reach and enhancing the quality of our offerings, particularly in key areas like healthcare, clean energy, and trades, to meet the evolving needs of the Navajo Nation.

By solidifying our partnerships and launching innovative programs, we aim to empower our students with the credentials and skills necessary to succeed in a competitive workforce. Together, we will continue to drive economic growth and create sustainable opportunities for our community, ensuring a brighter future for all.



Ongoing Activities & Accomplishments

Program Expansion

Solar Warriors, Solar Technician Program expanded to the Window Rock campus while maintaining enrollment at Tuba City.

Enrollment:

Fall 2023: 29 students

Spring 2024: 27 students

Partnership Development

- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Purpose Focused Alternative Learning (PFAL): We successfully finalized the MOU with PFAL, marking a significant advancement in expanding educational opportunities. Despite challenges with external funding sources, our commitment to overcoming these obstacles remains strong. Our immediate focus is on rebuilding and expanding the PFAL program to the Shiprock and Tsaille campuses within the next year.

- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with ProTrain: The MOU with ProTrain has been finalized, enabling us to offer over 300 certification and certificate courses across diverse fields, including Accounting, Business and Leadership, Healthcare, Industrial Trades, and Information Technology. These programs are closely aligned with the Navajo Nation's Office of the President and Vice President (OPVP) Workforce Initiative.

- ProTrain/IHS – Pharmacy Technician Pilot Project: We have initiated a pilot project in collaboration with the Indian Health Service (IHS) to develop future training opportunities. Our goal is to become a Registered Training Partner with IHS on a national level, with 20 interested individuals currently being processed through the Navajo Department of Workforce Development.

Projections for Future Development and Goals

ProTrain

We plan to focus on expanding training and certification opportunities quarterly, particularly those aligned with the OPVP's Workforce Initiative. Coordination with the Navajo Department of Workforce Development will be critical to offering instructor-led classes with a short completion timeframe. Each course will include a voucher for a national certification exam, with additional requirements as needed.

Purpose Focused Alternative Learning

While we have encountered funding challenges, the PFAL collaboration remains a priority. Over the next year, we aim to rebuild the program and expand it to the Shiprock and Tsaille campuses, ensuring it continues to serve the community effectively.

NABCEP

Our goal is to become a Registered Training Partner under NABCEP by Fall 2025. This status will enable us to develop our course content, hire adjunct faculty, and serve as a test proctoring provider for students seeking Clean Energy Professional certification.

Healthcare Partnerships

We aim to formalize collaborations with Tuba City Medical Center, Hopi Healthcare, and Utah Navajo Health System. By addressing current staffing and time constraints, we will ensure these partnerships thrive and contribute to the success of our healthcare programs.

Pharmacy Tech Pilot project and other coordinated efforts to develop live-instructed campus classes. This will allow local communities to utilize micro-sites, more specifically.

Conclusion

The School of Transformation has made significant strides in expanding educational opportunities, forging strategic partnerships, and aligning with the Navajo Nation's workforce development goals. Moving forward, we will continue to focus on program expansion, resource allocation, and partnership development to ensure our initiatives are impactful and accessible to all. We invite all stakeholders to join us in this transformative journey as we work together to create a brighter future for the Navajo Nation and beyond.

DUAL CREDIT



In Fall 2024, the Dual Credit Program launched an exciting new partnership with Chinle High School. Under the instruction of Mr. Victor Denny, students at Chinle High School are now enrolled in Navajo as a Second Language courses. This collaboration is part of the program's broader effort to integrate cultural and academic learning. Additionally, new Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) have been established with Central Consolidated Schools and the Gallup McKinley County School Districts. The Dual Credit Program looks forward to contributing to these districts' educational goals by offering Dual Credit opportunities and college courses to their students.

Accomplishments

Among the program's notable accomplishments is the graduation of Ms. Candice Perry, who has become the first Arizona high school student to earn a certificate in Public Health from both Many Farms High School and Diné College. Her achievement is a testament to her hard work and commitment.

The program also celebrates the academic success of its students, who have earned top honors at their respective high schools. At Window Rock High School, Mr. Vinz Josh Limbaga is the Salutatorian, and Ms. Kloe White is the Valedictorian. At Pinon High School, Dwight Gilmore Jr. has been named Salutatorian, while Keira Tom is the Valedictorian. At Many Farms High School, Talen James has achieved the status of Valedictorian.

The Dual Credit Program extends its gratitude to all supporters and funders whose contributions enhance the program's ability to foster student success. Their ongoing support is crucial in making a significant impact on the lives of the students served.



Candice Perry



Erica Johnson

Grant Opportunities

The Dual Credit Program continues to benefit from the American Indian College Fund (AICF) grant, "Cultivating Native Student Success, Supporting the Native Student Journey." Thanks to this grant, the program has hired Ms. Erica Johnson as a Dual Credit Specialist. Her role has been instrumental in increasing enrollment and expanding the program's offerings. In Fall 2024, ENG 101- College Composition I

is being provided to 35 students from Window Rock High School, 30 students from Pinon High School, and 9 students from Many Farms High School. Successful completion of ENG 101, with a grade of C or higher, will allow these students to progress to ENG 102 - College Composition II in the Spring. This course serves as a prerequisite for their degree pathways and helps prepare students for future academic and career goals.

Convoy

The Dual Credit program is also collaborating with Dr. Shazia Tabassum Hakim from the School of STEM on a grant titled "Convoy: A Cultural Approach of Navajo Youth to Bio-medical Sciences." During the summer of 2024, ten dual-credit students participated in the inaugural cohort of this initiative. They completed a 10-week program that included the dual credit course "NIS 221 - Navajo History to Present," which provided insights into Navajo traditions and culture. The students also gained practical experience in basic biomedical techniques, covering areas such as life chemistry, infectious diseases, and biomedical engineering.

In addition, the Dual Credit Program is engaged in a new grant aimed at creating pathways for New Mexico high school students into Teacher Education programs. The program is enthusiastic about the opportunities this grant will offer and the positive impact it will have on students' educational journeys.



Convoy Participants: First Cohort 2024



NA'ALKAAH BEE HONÍT'I -RESEARCH, INNOVATION & PRACTICE DEPARTMENT:

As the Vice Provost for Research at Diné College, Andrea Christelle is pleased to present an overview of the significant progress achieved by Na'alkaah Bee Honít'i - Research, Innovation & Practice over the past year. The Navajo-inspired approach to knowledge acquisition has resulted in notable accomplishments.

A comprehensive research infrastructure has been established to support investigations of both local and global importance, thereby benefiting the Navajo Nation. This effort to redefine Tribal research, expand institutional capacity, and advance the research agenda has produced impressive outcomes, as demonstrated by the key metrics for 2022-23: \$3,054,000 in research expenditures, with \$2,255,000 from U.S. Federal sources \$15,555,542 in new competitive funding secured A remarkable 72% acceptance rate on grant submissions Technical enhancements have been implemented to streamline processes, improve audit readiness, and strengthen internal controls. Additionally, a Research Leadership Program is being introduced to develop faculty and staff skills, particularly in securing extramural funding.

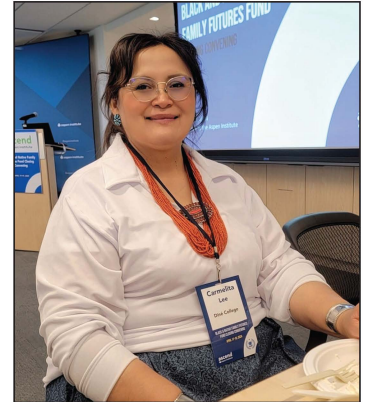
Looking forward, the commitment to serving both institutional and Navajo Nation interests remains strong, with a focus on sustainable, diverse, and inclusive research initiatives. This commitment aligns with Diné College's strategic design, aiming to foster a culture of research excellence that upholds digital humanity and social justice while addressing the unique needs of the Navajo Nation.



Aspen Institute

Diné College Empowers Student-Parent Carmelita Lee through BNFF Grant

Diné College student-parent Carmelita Lee, a mother of seven and grandmother of 17, has achieved a significant milestone by earning her Associate degree in Applied Science.



Currently serving as a Nursing Assistant at Northern Navajo Medical Center, Lee is inspired to further her education by pursuing a degree in Office Administration from Diné College.

Lee's journey is supported by the Black and Native Family Funds (BNFF) grant, which the Ascend at the Aspen Institute awarded to Diné College in 2022. The \$75,000 grant funds the Warrior Parent Success Initiative, which provides resources such as educational workshops and a student-parent support network.

"The data showed that we failed in recognizing this student population and that we needed to do something about it," said Velveena Davis, Executive Director of Institutional Planning and Reporting. The initiative addresses the unique challenges faced by student-parents, including childcare needs and financial insecurities.

Ashley Morgan John, Project Manager, implemented the program at Shiprock and Tuba City campuses. Services include a food pantry, family-friendly workshops, and stipends for participants. "Our student-parent population has real challenges, and the data from the study supported that call for help," remarked Thomas Bennett, Associate Director of Student Services.

Carmelita Lee had the opportunity to participate in a student panel in Washington, D.C. "The program has given me the opportunity to find my network of student-parents and be assured that the College did not forget about us," said Lee.

Although the grant ended in April 2024, Diné College is committed to exploring further funding opportunities to support student-parents. "We want to assure our student-parents that they are seen and heard," Bennett added.

Diné College was one of eight institutions to receive the BNFF Grant, joining a committed group focused on supporting underserved student-parent populations.



Aspen Institute

CAPITAL PROJECTS REPORT

This report provides a comprehensive overview of the ongoing and upcoming construction projects across various campuses, focusing on the Diné College Department of Capital Projects (DCP). The DCP is responsible for managing the Capital Improvement and Investment Planning (CIIP) at Diné College. This oversight involves collaborating with all departments to ensure seamless integration and compliance with procurement processes in partnership with the Business Office. Before any significant progress is initiated, all projects are thoroughly vetted through the procurement process. The report aims to highlight the significance of these projects in enhancing educational facilities and infrastructure.



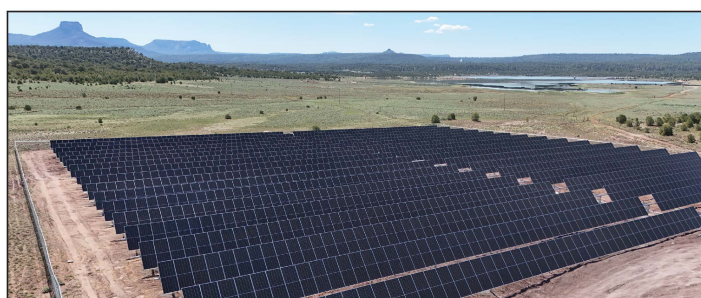
Shiprock Agriculture Multi-Purpose Center

The Agriculture Multi-Purpose Center in Shiprock had its groundbreaking ceremony on July 19, 2024. This innovative project, funded by the New Mexico Department of Higher Education through general obligation and severance tax bonds, signifies a substantial investment of \$7.2 million into the local community. The first phase, with a budget of \$2.4 million, is currently in progress and is projected to reach completion by December 31, 2024. This state-of-the-art facility will cater to a variety of needs, including providing support for agriculture education and fostering community involvement.



STEM Building at Tsale Campus

The Tsale campus has secured \$7 million in funding for the construction of a state-of-the-art STEM building. This new facility will be strategically positioned adjacent to the GCB building and is intended to specifically facilitate the pursuit of advanced degrees in biology and other scientific disciplines. In addition to providing cutting-edge laboratories and research facilities, the building will offer dedicated spaces for undergraduate research initiatives as well as a range of educational activities to support the academic community.

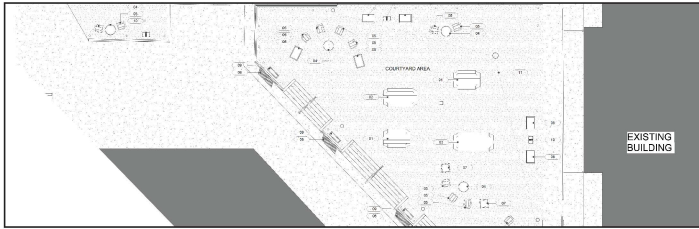


Diné College Announces Solar Farm Construction Project to Enhance Energy Efficiency

Diné College announces the commencement of a construction project aimed at strengthening the college's commitment to sustainable energy and environmental stewardship. The project, part of a YEAROUT Guaranteed Energy Savings Performance Contract (GESPC), will see the installation of a new solar farm designed to provide clean, renewable energy to the campus.

Student Services Center at Shiprock South Campus

At the Shiprock South Campus, a new Student Services Center is in the works to enhance student convenience by minimizing the necessity to travel between campuses. This substantial \$5 million project has successfully secured funding and is currently in the initial planning stages. The expected completion date for this project is June 30, 2026. Once finished, the center will serve as a centralized hub for a wide range of student services, thereby significantly improving access and convenience for students.



Outdoor Learning Facilities - Tsale Campus

An outdoor learning center is currently being designed and constructed in the space located between the Student Union building and the cafeteria. This project aims to create an inviting environment that encourages and supports outdoor student activities. The renovated area will feature a canopy-covered commons area, which will serve as a versatile space for student gatherings, outdoor classes, and various extracurricular activities.



Dormitory Renovations and Energy Efficiency Upgrades - Tsale Campus

Ten dormitories, originally constructed in the 1970s, are undergoing essential infrastructure upgrades to address aging sewer and water systems. A substantial allocation of \$1 million has been earmarked for these critical improvements.

Notably, this renovation marks the first time the college dorms will be equipped with air conditioning, enhancing the comfort and livability of student housing.

In addition to the dormitory upgrades, a comprehensive energy performance contract amounting to \$20 million is nearing completion. This initiative includes the modernization of air handlers, HVAC systems, and building envelopes in 17 educational buildings. A solar farm will also be installed to harness renewable energy sources.

These upgrades are expected to yield significant benefits, particularly in energy efficiency. The campus anticipates reducing its reliance on the grid by an impressive 80% during peak times, marking a significant step towards sustainable and environmentally friendly operations.

New Faculty Apartments - Tsale Campus

Plans have been finalized for the development of faculty apartments, which will consist of a total of 16 units, including both single-occupancy and double-occupancy options.

The proposed location for these apartments is on the southwest side of the main campus near the rodeo grounds. At present, the project is undergoing the design phase, with construction funding pending approval.

Student Wellness Center - Tsale Campus

The Student Wellness Center is currently in the architectural design phase and is planned to be a 27,000-square-foot facility. It will include a multi-use court, a gymnasium, a weight room, and a dedicated space for aerobics. The center will be strategically located near the fitness trail and softball field, providing easy access for students and enhancing the overall wellness experience. Additionally, relocating equipment from existing facilities will allow for an expanded range of offerings at the new center.

Project Name	Funding Amount	Project Status
Shiprock Agriculture Multi-Purpose Center	\$7.2 million	Groundbreaking in progress
Student Services Center at Shiprock South Campus	\$5 million	Planning stage
STEM Building at Tsale Campus	\$7 million	Funding secured
Outdoor Learning Facilities	TBD	Designing and constructing
Dormitory Renovations and Energy Efficiency Upgrades	\$21 million	In progress
New Faculty Apartments	TBD	Design phase
Student Wellness Center	TBD	Architectural design phase

Total Funding: \$40.2 million
(excluding TBD amounts)

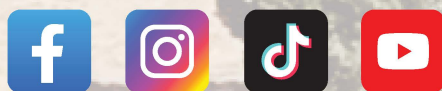
Funding Resources

- **Shiprock Agriculture Multipurpose Center**
combination of General Obligation Bonds and Severance Tax bonds with New Mexico
- **Shiprock South Campus Student Services Center**
General Obligation bonds - state of New Mexico
- **STEM Building at Tsale Campus** - Federal Funds (Title III)
- **Outdoor Learning Facilities** - ARPA funds - BIE
- **Dormitory Renovations**
(Navajo Nation allocation) and Energy Efficiency Upgrades (ARPA Funds)
- **New faculty apartments** - Navajo Nation allocation)
- **Student Wellness center** - Navajo Nation Allocation)

Conclusion

The ongoing construction projects are part of a comprehensive effort to strengthen the educational infrastructure, improve student convenience, and prioritize sustainability.

The upgraded facilities will enable the institution to provide enhanced learning experiences and better support its academic community. These initiatives demonstrate a dedication to preparing educational environments for the future and leveraging resources for optimum effectiveness.



Accreditation: HIGHER LEARNING COMMISSION

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